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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 DODE-00 INR-05 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 SP-02 NSAE-00 L-01
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O R 141305Z DEC 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9840
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 9064

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, GR, TU
SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: STATE 296370

1. TURGUT TULUMEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CYPRUS AND GREEK AFFAIRS, MFA, DRAWING ON NOTES, GAVE CHARGE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF DECEMBER 9 MEETING BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS: THE MEETING, WHICH LASTED AN HOUR AND A HALF, WAS OPENED BY GREEK FONMIN PAPALIGOURAS WHO ADDRESSED TURKISH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AS "DEAR FRIEND." HE SAID THERE WAS NEED FOR FRANK DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN
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MINISTERS AND THAT HE WANTED "CLOSE CONTACTS" IN THE FUTURE.

2. CAGALYANGIL, ACCORDING TO TULUMEN, MADE A FRIENDLY REJOINDER AND COMMENTED HUMOROUSLY ON FACT BOTH MEN HAD BEEN PUT IN JAIL BY JUNTAS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. AFTER SAYING THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD COOPERATE IN THE EC, CAGLAYANGIL TURNED TO CYPRUS WHICH HE TERMED THE KEY PROBLEM FOR BOTH.

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HE RECALLED HIS PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEM STARTING IN 1965 AND EMPHASIZED HIS OWN CONVICTION THAT WITH COURAGE THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED DESPITE THE MANY DIFFERENCES TO BE OVERCOME. HE BELIEVED CONDITIONS WERE NOW FAVORABLE FOR A FINAL SOLUTION. THERE WAS A NEW GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY. THE COALITION PARTNERS HAD AGREED TO A BIZONAL, BICOMMUNAL, INDEPENDENT FEDERATION ON CYPRUS. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S PROTOCOL HAD BEEN MODERATE AND FORTHCOMING IN TONE AND HAD EMPHASIZED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. GIVING HIS VERSION OF THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH TALKS, CAGLAYANGIL POINTED OUT THAT THE TWO MEN HAD RULED OUT PARTITION AND ENNOSIS FOR EITHER SIDE, AS WELL AS RULING OUT UDI. THEY HAD AGREED THAT INDEPENDENT DID NOT MEAN TWO SEPARATE STATES. MAKARIOS HAD SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO BE PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORD "BIZONAL" BUT HAD AGREED THAT WITH ALL OTHER OPTIONS RULED OUT, A BIZONAL FEDERATION WAS WHAT WAS LEFT. CAGLAYANGIL CONTINUED THAT THERE WERE TWO SERIOUS PROBLEMS: CONSTITUTION AND TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT THE TURKS HAD PROPOSED A PACKAGE DEAL. TALKS WITH THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS HAD BROKEN DOWN WHEN THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS SAID THEY WANTED A PERCENTAGE FIGURE ON TERRITORY IN ADVANCE. THE TURKS BELIEVE THAT THIS CONSTITUTED A PRE-CONDITION FOR NEGOTIATION WHICH THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT.

3. CAGLAYANGIL TOLD PAPALIGOURAS THAT FOUR-PARTY TALKS MIGHT BE NECESSARY BUT SAID HE WAS NOT MAKING A PROPOSAL. THE TURKISH SIDE WANTED TO BE CLEAR THAT IT WAS READY TO ACCEPT NEGOTIATION
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WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS. THERE WAS A PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IN GETTING THE TWO COMMUNITIES, WHO SOMETIMES BEHAVED LIKE "SPOILED CHILDREN," TO BEHAVE. THERE WAS ALSO A NEED FOR GREEK-TURKISH GUARANTORS IN ANY SOLUTION.

4. TURNING TO THE AEGEAN, CAGLAYANGIL BELIEVED THERE SHOULD BE EARLY NEGOTIATION AND TURKEY WAS READY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATION. PAPALIGOURAS AGREED BUT SAID AFTER HIS RETURN TO ATHENS HE WOULD FIX A DATE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS FOR SOME TIME AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 9064

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 9064VICE 9065)

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5. PAPALIGOURAS THEN BREIFLY ADDRESSED THE CYPRUS PROBLEM SAYING THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONE STATE ON CYPRUS - INDEPENDENT, FEDERAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC. (TULUMEN COMMENTED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHAT THESE WORDS MEANT). PAPALIGOURAS EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THE GREECE COULD DO NOTHING AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS. HIS GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, WAS NOT INTERESTED IN FOUR-PARTY TALKS. (CAGLAYANGIL INTERJECTED THAT HE WAS NOT MAKING A PROPOSAL). PAPALIGOURAS CONTINED THAT HE BELIEVED THE TWO MOTHER COUNTRIES COULD PLAY A MORE USEFUL ROLE OUTSIDE OF THE TALKS.

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6. THE FINAL PART OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE SINS OF THE PRESS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, WITH CAGLAYANGIL IN PARTICULAR COMPLAINING ABOUT THE GREEK PRESS. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS DRAFTED WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY. THE FIRST VERSION CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO "INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS" THAT WAS CHANGED TO "NEGOTIATION" AT THE REQUEST OF THE TURKS. IN RETURN THEY AGREED THAT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CAGLAYANGIL WOULD EQUATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS THUS ALLOWING THE GREEKS TO PLAY IT THEIR WAY IN ATHENS.

7. TULUMEN COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH PAPALIGOURAS HAD BEEN VERY

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CAUTIOUS AND SAID LITTLE, THE ATMOSHPERE HAD BEEN FRIENDLY.
SEVERAL GREEK COLLEAGUES WHOM HE KNEW WELL FROM HIS SERVICE IN
ATHENS HAD BEEN FRIENDLIER THAN THEY HAD BEEN FOR SOME TIME.
HE WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT DRAWING CONCLUSIONS BUT FOUND THIS MILDLY
ENCOURAGING. HE SPECULATED THAT THE SUPPORT DEMONSTRATED FOR
TURKEY IN NATO HAD HAD A SOBERING EFFECT ON THE GREEKS.
HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT CAGLAYANGIL'S HANDLING OF QUADRIPARTITE
TALKS ISSUE HAD BEEN INTENDED TO BRING SUBJECT UP WITHOUT PUTTING
PAPALIGOURAS IN CORNER.
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